



# Integrating agroecology into agricultural policies in Burkina Faso

Webinar



On 18th March 2021, Biovision Foundation, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso and in collaboration with IFOAM Organics International and FAO, organised a workshop on the integration of agroecology into agricultural policies in Burkina Faso. The objective of the event was to facilitate the exchange of experiences between policy makers from different countries and to stimulate discussions on the design of public policies that promote the development and dissemination of agroecological practices in Burkina Faso.

Below, we present the main lessons and key messages discussed in the interactive part of the workshop:

1. **The development of a national law on organic agriculture** provides an enabling framework for the development of a revenue-generating sector, including support for exports, and demonstrates the government's commitment to supporting the sector as well as mobilising support from technical and financial partners.
2. **In the case of Madagascar**, the national organic law was initially driven by the private sector and policy discussions gradually broadened to include domestic market issues and support for small-scale producers supplying the national market. One of the challenges in developing the national law was the introduction of participatory guarantee systems (PSG), which were met with resistance by some sectors.
3. **The concept of organic farming territories** aims to develop a territorial certification to limit the contamination of pollutants in a given region. It is based on a shared vision of all stakeholders of a territory to promote organic farming and can include other objectives such as revitalizing rural areas and local development.
4. **In Senegal, the establishment of the platform "Dynamique pour une Transition Agro-Ecologique au Sénégal (DYTAES)** brought together about 30 organisations from civil society, research bodies, producer and consumer initiatives and local officials. In 2019, a national consultation conferred with over 100 producers, which led to the submission of a set of policy recommendations to facilitate a national agroecological transition. Some first policy decisions by the government include the re-allocating of 10% of the budget for agricultural input subsidies to organic fertilisers in 2021 and the appointment of a focal point within the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. **In terms of funding**, the national consultation in Senegal was financed by the DYTAES member's fees within the scope of possibilities of each member. In Madagascar, funding for the development of the national law was provided by a World Bank project and a variety of cooperation partners.
6. **Regarding the financing of PSG's**, the discussions showed that there is very little experience of self-financing. In general, external technical and financial support is needed to implement a PSG. For example, funding can come from a reallocation of chemical input subsidies.
7. **The importance of agroecological action research** was emphasized. Funding needs to be strengthened to develop solutions to the dual challenge of food and nutritional security and the preservation of natural resources.
8. A possible **strategy to increase the demand for agroecological products** is to promote it through communication, information, trainings of stakeholders and consumers, as well as actions to link producers and consumers, for example through PSG's. Certainly, this remains a major challenge.
9. **At the regional level in West Africa**, many politicians have been sensitised to agroecological approaches. However, concrete solutions and agroecological practices vary greatly depending on the territory and agro-climatic zone.

This webinar has been organised as part of the Food Policy Forum for Change initiative. For more information, please visit <https://www.agroecology-pool.org/policy-forum/> or email [food.policy.forum@biovision.ch](mailto:food.policy.forum@biovision.ch).



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